



Legislative & Regulatory Priorities 2016

WE SUPPORT:

Access to Quality Hospice Care for All.

IL-HPCO advocates for quality hospice care for all persons with life limiting illness and believes that all those who are eligible should have access to the full range of services hospice has to offer.

Considered the model for quality compassionate care for people of all ages facing a life limiting or serious illness, hospice provides expert medical care, pain management and emotional and spiritual support based on the patient's needs and wishes. Support is also provided to the patient's family, as well.

Medicaid Hospice Care.

IL-HPCO believes that everyone deserves quality end-of-life care. Eliminating the Medicaid hospice benefit in Illinois would increase the state's spending, ranging from \$2300 to \$10,000 per beneficiary. States that have removed the Medicaid Hospice Benefit, including Illinois, have restored it in less than three months because of evidence of significant cost increase to Medicaid. Expensive hospitalizations and trips to the E.R. would also increase without the Medicaid Hospice Benefit.

Strengthening Support for Veterans Programs

One out of every four dying Americans is a Veteran. IL-HPCO supports fostering and strengthening the provision of palliative and hospice care to Illinois veteran through the enhancement of knowledge and collaboration between hospice agencies and regional, state and local Veterans Administration entities and representatives.

WE ENCOURAGE:

Agreement on an FY16 and FY17 State Budget.

IL-HPCO urges Governor Rauner and the Legislative Leaders to reach an agreement on a budget that will serve those most in need. Hospice care embraces young and old with serious or life-limiting illnesses, and saves the state money. With most of hospice care being provided in the home, wherever the patient calls home, there is a cost savings of \$2,300 per patient.

Continued HFS/Illinois General Assembly Oversight for Moving Forward with MCOs.

As the state moves forward with transitioning to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), IL-HPCO urges Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and the Illinois General Assembly to provide stringent oversight and support to providers, in addition to improving communications between MCOs and providers.

Resolve Longtime Medicaid Hospice Room & Board Issue with Nursing Homes.

To save money, Federal law requires hospice providers to seek state reimbursement for nursing home patients in hospice care at 95% of the nursing home cost. The Illinois Prompt Pay Act provides that nursing homes are reimbursed quicker than are hospice providers. The lag in payment is creating conflict between nursing homes and hospice providers, with nursing homes seeking reimbursement from hospice providers to provide this "pass through" reimbursement at the same time the nursing home is reimbursed. Reimbursement to the hospice provider may occur several months after the nursing home has been reimbursed for the same patient. Sometimes, nursing homes bar hospice care providers from providing services in their facilities.



Support for Medicaid Patient Burial Costs.

The Illinois Department of Human Services, through its Funeral & Burial Benefits program, has paid burial costs for Medicaid patients. More and more, hospice providers are stymied over body removal and burial. This fund is grossly underfunded (currently it is not funded at all), which means the hospice provider must find a funeral home that will remove and bury the deceased Medicaid patient, or pay for the burial through fund-raising dollars.